



THE WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Volume 1, Issue 2, August 2005

THE FIRST 365 DAYS



The President's Commitment

On May 13, 2004, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13339 to increase economic opportunities for and improve the quality of life of approximately 14 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living in the United States and the U.S.-associated Pacific Island jurisdictions. This action renews a previous Executive Order, which established the President's Advisory Commission and a federal Interagency Working Group on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.



Seated from left to right: Martha Cruz Ruth, Nina Nguyen Collier, Betty Wu, Vellie Dietrich-Hall
Standing from left to right: John Kim, Kenneth Wong, Jeff Sakaguchi, William Afeaki, Rudy Pamintuan, Karl Rove (Special Adviser to the President), Dr. Akshay Desai, Joseph Melookaran, William Kil, Jimmy Lee, Derrick Nguyen

A Message from the Chairwoman of the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs

Greetings! On behalf of my fellow members serving on the President's Advisory Commission, I welcome you to our annual newsletter. As we reflect on our efforts to date, it has certainly been an extraordinary "First 365 Days" for the President's Advisory Commission. This newsletter will give you some insight into our endeavors and efforts of the past year as well as, information on upcoming events.

Over the year, we conducted a series of site visits in Philadelphia, Houston, Los Angeles, Raleigh, Chicago and New York. For the first time, we also conducted Technical Assistance Conferences. This was significant because it gave us a chance to come to the community using a holistic approach to educate and inform the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community of government programs available to them. We actively participated in meetings with AAPI community based organizations and AAPI owned businesses in the respective sites. The overwhelming response and remarkable support from these organizations have not only helped us foster research and data collection, it gave us a deeper understanding of our growing network. This has assisted us in augmenting our wealth of information on the AAPI community for our Report to the President.

I am honored to serve the President's Advisory Commission on AAPI as the Chairwoman and I express

my sincere gratitude to each of my fellow Commissioners for their unparalleled commitment and steady participation during the year. It has been a privilege to work with this group of talented and dedicated individuals. As a team, we have always strived to provide equal economic and community development opportunities for AAPIs. We aim to enhance the participation of AAPIs in federal programs and improve their quality of life in both the public and private sectors.

We look forward to our Public Official Meeting scheduled for early fall in San Francisco and San Jose. Please watch for our announcement.

Here's to another year of hard work, fortitude and accomplishments. Thank you for your interest and your continued support,

Betty Wu
Chairwoman
President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs

Message from the Executive Director



Welcome. It has been a little more than a year since President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13339 establishing the Office of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, as well as the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs. Since then, we have been hard at work settling into our new home agency, refocusing the Initiative to economic and community development, and following up on the recommendations of the first Advisory Commission.

President Bush is very proud of his 289 AAPI political appointments and all of the hard work they have accomplished over the past 5 years. The President's Advisory Commission has played a substantial role in highlighting the work that their fellow appointees are doing in different parts of the federal government and how it affects the various AAPI communities around the United States. Through Technical Assistance Conferences and various outreach opportunities, the Commissioners and I have been on the road, connecting various federal agencies and their resources to communities in need. For example, we have linked AAPIs all over the country with Small Business Administration officials and given opportunities for one-on-one interaction between budding entrepreneurs in Chicago and Minority Business Development Agency officers in the area. We also helped a large Montagnard community in North Carolina gain better

access to Social Security Administration officials. This trip was especially meaningful because of the way we were able to raise awareness for this growing AAPI community with the state's Commerce officials.

As we move into our second year, we are still actively promoting the opportunities and programs within the federal government that are available to the AAPI community. At the same time, we are continuing our research for the Commission's Report to the President, which will focus on best practices, as well as underlying concerns, when it comes to economic and community development in AAPI communities nationwide. The Report will be available to you in early 2006 until the end of the Commission's term in June 2006. We look forward to our continuing interaction with you, our community leaders, and to our combined success in making the future brighter for all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

All the Best,

Eddy Badrina

Executive Director,
White House Initiative on Asian Americans and
Pacific Islanders

MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS SWORN-IN

On Monday, July 19, 2004, **Ronald Langston**, National Director of the Minority Business Development Agency, administered the oath of office to fourteen members of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in a ceremony at the White House Conference Center. This marked the beginning of their two-year term of service. The event drew over one hundred individuals ranging from Asian American and Pacific Islander community leaders to federal officials to news media representing various Asian American and Pacific Islander publications.

The Commission proceeded to the White House and met with **Karl Rove**, Senior Advisor to the President. Mr. Rove thanked the members

for their willingness to serve the President and the American people. He wished them good luck in carrying out their duties on behalf of the nations 14 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs).



The President's Advisory Commission being sworn in on Monday, July 19, 2004 by Ronald Langston, National Director of the Minority Business Development Agency

The President's Signing of Executive Order 13339

In a small Oval office ceremony which took place on May 13, 2004, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13339 to provide equal economic opportunities for full participation of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) businesses in our free market economy where they may be underserved and thus improving the quality of life for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Attending the signing ceremony was **Susan Ralston**, Special Assistant to the President, **Ms. Chiling Tong**, Associate Director of the Office of Legislative, Education and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Minority Business Development Agency, and **Eddy Badrina**, the newly appointed Executive Director of the White House Initiative on AAPIs.

Badrina previously served as a Senior Associate at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), where he specialized in business development and economic growth preparing U.S. businesses to invest in foreign emerging markets. Prior to OPIC, Mr. Badrina was a congressional advisor at the U.S. Department of State focusing on Middle East policy. Also joining the staff as Deputy Director is **Erik Wang**. Previously, Mr. Wang served in the office of the White House Initiative as the Commission Liaison.

Through the Executive Order, the Office of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders has been placed at the Department of Commerce under the Minority Business Development Agency. The EO also renews the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (Commission) and the Interagency Working Group on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (IWG).

The Commission is made up of 14 members appointed by the President. These individuals either have a history of involvement with the AAPI community or are from the business enterprise sector, civic associations, or involved in the fields of economic, social, or community development. The role of the Commission is to provide recommendations to the President on



*President George W. Bush signs an executive order creating the new President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Pictured with the President are, from left, **Susan Ralston**, Special Assistant to the President, **Eddy Badrina**, Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and **Chiling Tong**, Associate Director, Office of Legislative, Education and Intergovernmental Affairs, Minority Business Development Agency.*

efforts that improve economic and community development opportunities for Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses in both the public and private sector. The Commission is also looking at ways to increase the diversification of Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses and to foster research and data collection on their levels of participation in the national economy.

There will also be an **Interagency Working Group (IWG)** made up of 34 federal agencies chaired by an individual designated by the Secretary of Commerce. The IWG is responsible for developing and implementing government wide policies to support economic opportunities for Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses. In order to accomplish this, each agency will be required to prepare and submit an implementation plan, which addresses a number of areas. Some of these areas include increasing participation in Federal programs for Asian American businesses through equal access to such programs; ensuring nondiscrimination in Federal contracting and procurement

opportunities; providing equal opportunity for public-sector and private sector partnerships for the community and economic development of Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses; and fostering research and data collection on Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses.

The Office also serves as a conduit to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. If you would like more information about the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, please call 202-482-3949.



THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMISSION CONDUCTS SITE VISITS AND HOSTS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FORUMS ACROSS THE NATION

*"Improving Quality of
Life of Approximately 14
Million Asian Americans
& Pacific Islanders"*

The President's Advisory Commission traveled to Philadelphia, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Raleigh, Chicago, and New York to meet and listen to members of the AAPI communities across the U.S. For the first time, the Commission also conducted Technical Assistance Forums designed to meet the needs of the AAPI Community. This was significant because it gave us a chance to come to the community using a holistic approach to educate and inform the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community of government programs available to them. The Commission actively participated in meetings with AAPI community based organizations and AAPI owned businesses in the respective sites assisting us in augmenting our wealth of information on the AAPI community for our Report to the President.

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Sheraton Society Hill

July 19-20, 2004

Immediately following their swearing-in ceremony, the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs traveled to Philadelphia, PA to conduct a site visit and the first public meeting of its term. The Philadelphia AAPI community hosted a reception on July 19th, 2004 at the Sheraton Society Hill. This site visit was the first such tour taken by the White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders.



Children at the Chinatown Learning Center recite the pledge of allegiance and sing for the President's Advisory Commission.

The next day the Commission visited the **United Communities CDC, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corp**, and the **Enterprise Center**. A Commission Public Meeting was held at the Enterprise Center to bring the Commission and Initiative to the AAPI community. Afterwards, a Testimony on Economic and Community Development Issues conference was held at the same location. The conference hosted speakers from **Center for Veterans Enterprise, US Department**



The United Communities CDC briefs the Commission.

of Veterans Affairs, Integrated Solutions, US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce, VGX Pharmaceuticals, School District of Philadelphia, Environmental Protection Agency Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Initiative, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation, and the **Council for America My Country**. These speakers spoke on a range of different topics and issues addressing the AAPI community.

HOUSTON, TX

In Partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency

August 4-5, 2004

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invited the White House Initiative on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders and the President's Commission to attend their Listening Session in Houston, Texas on August 4-5, 2004.

The Commission was given a tour of AAPI community centers in the Downtown, Midtown, Hilcroft, Harwin, and Bellaire areas. A dinner reception was held at the Ocean Palace Restaurant with a warm welcome from the Mayor. Special guests included **Eddy**

Badrina, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and **Ray Spears** and **Rafael De Leon** representing EPA.

On the last day, the participants convened for a Leaders Roundtable for AAPI issues at the Metro Center Bank. The group then made site visits to a nail salon pilot shop and to a Vietnamese Community Center where commissioners discussed the Initiative with the youth and shop owners.

WASHINGTON, DC

National Institute of Standards and Technology

January 24-25, 2005

On January 24-25, 2005, the White House Initiative and the President's Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders held their second public meeting at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland. **Hratch G. Semerjian**, Acting Director of NIST and **Ben Wu**, Chair of Maryland Governor's AAPI Commission welcomed the Commission. The Initiative invited a wide variety of presenters from many governmental and private agencies to address the Commission. These included the:

- 1) National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
- 2) National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies

- 3) Hmong National Development
- 4) Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
- 5) Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- 6) Committee of 100
- 7) Boat People SOS
- 8) US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce

The speakers presented a variety of topics, ranging from issues facing AAPI businesses to community development issues.

KANSAS CITY, MO

White House Initiative Partners with SCORE Association

Feb 4, 2005



The Commissioners, local SCORE officials and Asian Business leaders in Kansas City attend a breakfast sponsored by Sprint.

Eddy Badrina, Executive Director, WHIAA-PI and **Ken Yancey**, CEO, SCORE Association participated in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing on Friday, February 4, 2005 in Kansas City, Missouri. This partnership helps to extend the reach of SCORE and its vital business counseling services to the AAPI business community nationwide.

After the breakfast, Commissioners met with the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and held a Community Roundtable hosted by Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

LOS ANGELES, CA

Japanese American National Museum

April 14-16, 2005

On April 14, 2005, the White House Initiative and President's Commission held their Technical Assistance Forum at the Japanese American National Museum. **Alexander Kim**, from the Office of the Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, welcomed the Commission to the State of California. Other guest speakers came from the **Small Business Administra-**



Los Angeles AAPI community participants meet with the Commissioners at the Technical Assistance Forum at the Japanese American National Museum

tion, Los Angeles Metro Minority Business Development Center, Department of Health and Human Services, Asian Business Association Online, Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program, Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment, and Pacific Islander Economic Development Issues.

Over the course of the next two days, the Commission conducted site visits to the **Little Tokyo Service Center, The Koreatown Youth and Community Center, Inc., Bolsa Medical Group, Quoc Viet Foods, and the Center Bank.** The **Filipino American Community of Los Angeles** sponsored an AAPI community lunch and the **Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County** hosted a reception and dinner at the **Vien Dong Auditorium.**



The Commission visits QuocViet Foods of Orange County

HOUSTON, TX

Hilton Garden Inn

May 20-21, 2005

The Houston site visit tour and Technical Assistance Forum were held May 20th and 21st. The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders visited a number of different organizations run by members within the Texan AAPI community.

On the 20th, the Commission and other members visited the **Rainbow Village Senior Living Center, the Chinese Community Center, and the headquarters of Tanox and Piping Technology.** A lunch reception was hosted by the **Southern News Group** in

which the commissioners received a briefing on the new initiative for the International Management District in SW Chinatown presented by **M.J. Khan, Scott Hochberg, and Bill Calderon.** The group also had a working lunch with a number of local AAPI business leaders to discuss issues facing minority small business owners. The **Asian Pacific American Heritage Association** held an evening gala at the Hilton Post Oak Hotel.



The Commission visits Houston's brand new Chinese Community Center, which services not only the Chinese community, but also the multicultural communities of Houston.



Randy Bailey, Vice President of Piping Technology, a South Asian owned company speaks to Betty Wu, Erik Wang, and Joseph Melookaran at Piping Technology's company headquarters.

A Technical Assistance Forum was held on May 21st at the Hilton Garden Inn. A number of speakers from different federal and state agencies attended. They included the **US Small Business Administration, Minority Business Development Agency, Housing and Urban Development, Department of Labor, Federal Communication Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Houston Independent School District.** Community organizations including **ACCION Texas, SCORE Association, and Metro Bank** also attended to inform the AAPI community on their program and services.

RALEIGH, NC

Marriott Hotel at Research Triangle Park

June 10-11, 2005

For the Raleigh site visit and Technical Assistance (TA) Forum the White



A member of North Carolina's Montagnard Community in Greensboro addresses the Commission.

House Initiative and President's Commission invited **Sean Pan**, External Affairs Chair of the National Association of Asian American Professionals, **Cyndy Yu Robinson**, EPA and External Affairs, for TACAS, and **Julia Robinson**, Cary Town Council member, to join them on June 10-11, 2005.

The Commission made numerous site visits to the **NC Dept of Commerce & Dept of Cultural Resource**, **Raleigh Chinese Christian Church (RCCC)**, the **Orange County Human Relations Commission**, and **IBM** in efforts to bring together the members of the North Carolina AAPI community. This trip was the first such visit to North Carolina and was a huge success for the Initiative. **State Farm Insurance** hosted a working lunch and a community reception was held at the Brier Creek Country Club in the evening.



The Commission visits IBM and is briefed by IBM Senior Executives on their company's diversity programs.

On the following day the Technical Assistance Forum was held at the Marriott at Research Triangle Park. Numerous groups and agencies, such as the **Department of Education**, **Small Business Administration**, **Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization**, **Department of Agriculture**, **Procurement Operations Division**, **Federal Communications Commission**, **National Science Foundation**, **Environmental Protection Agency**, **Social Security Administration**, and the **Department of Housing and Urban Development** attended.

CHICAGO, IL
Kam L. Liu Building
June 17-18, 2005



The Commission visits McDonald's Corporate Headquarters where they test new products before being introduced to the public.

The Commission opened its Chicago site visit and technical assistance forum on July 17, 2005, with a breakfast meeting with the **Chicago Foundation for Women**. Afterwards, the Commission conducted site visits to the **Vietnamese Association of Illinois/Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce**, **Cambodian Association of Illinois**, **McDonalds Corporation & Hamburger University**. In the evening, a community reception was hosted by Asian American Alliance at the Peninsula Hotel.

The **Chinese American Service League** hosted the Technical Assistance Forum the next day at the Kam L. Liu Building. Betty Wu, the Commission chair, opened the forum and speakers from numerous regional and federal agencies spoke. Local organizations, such as the **Chicago Regional Office**, **ACCION Chicago**, and the **Illinois State-wide Minority Business Development Center** also attended and participated.

Minority Health Meeting
August 10, 2005

On Wednesday, August 10, Dr. Desai, Chair of the Commission's Health Subcommittee, participated in a meeting led by Dr. Garth N. Graham, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health And Human Services (DHHS) and also met with Dr. Ho Tran, Chief Executive Officer of the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

Dr. Desai was briefed on DHHS efforts and programs to address overall AAPI health concerns and specific AAPI health disparity issues. The participating agencies included the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Office of Civil Rights, the Administration for Children and

Families, representatives from HHS Region IX, and the National Institutes of Health. At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Graham pledged to partner with the Commission to prioritize several AAPI health concerns and to address these issues by bringing the full resources of the Department of Health and Human Services.

New York, NY
August 23-24th, 2005



At a luncheon hosted by the Downtown Flushing Transit Hub Business Improvement District (Flushing BID), Mable Law, Executive Director of the Flushing BID presents the President's Advisory Commission with an award of appreciation for visiting Flushing, New York as part of the Commission's site visit schedule.

The President's Advisory Commission conducted a site visit in New York City on Tuesday, August 23 and Wednesday, August 24. Led by Chairwoman Betty Wu, the Commissioners met with AAPI community based organizations, universities and business owners to conduct research for its report to the President. Mayor Michael Bloomberg joined the Commission at a luncheon hosted by Asian Women in Business and the Chinatown Partnership LDC.

Over the two days, the Commission took walking tours of AAPI communities in Chinatown, Brooklyn, Jackson Heights, and Flushing led by Asian Americans For Equality, State Senator Marty Golden, Chhya Community Development Corporation, the Flushing BID, and Councilman John Liu.



Commission members along with City Councilman John Liu visit and sample traditional Korean cuisine prepared by the owners of Myung Ga Tofu & BBQ Restaurant in Flushing, New York

A TRIBUTE TO THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMISSION'S FORMER CHAIR, DR. JOHN B. TSU

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of **Dr. John B. Tsu** earlier this February. When President George W. Bush first took office in 2001, he appointed Dr. Tsu to serve as Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.



Throughout his two-year term, Dr. Tsu worked tirelessly to hear from as many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as possible across the country on their issues and concerns. Ultimately, along with his fellow Commissioners, Dr. Tsu issued his Report to the President titled **"Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Addressing Health Disparities - Opportunities For Building A Healthier America."**

Dr. Tsu dedicated his entire life to the cause of education, public service and was a pioneer in increasing Asian participation in mainstream American politics at the national, state, and local levels. He was affiliated with Asian American studies programs at several universities including Seton Hall, the University of San Francisco, and the John F. Kennedy University and was a leading advocate for the teaching of Asian languages in public schools. Dr. Tsu was admired and respected by Republicans and Democrats for his leadership and his dedication to the communities where he lived, as well as the entire Asian American and Pacific Islander population. Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Tsu traveled around the country and the world to personally work on Asian American issues. He earned trust and good will from those he came in contact with and became a role model to the AAPI community.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, ROBERT MATSUI

The passing of Congressman Robert Matsui also saddened the President's Commission. Representative Matsui was a role model to the AAPI community, an honorable and trustworthy man who was committed to public service. Both Republicans and Democrats admired him for his tireless leadership, his dedication to his community in California, as well as to the larger Asian American and Pacific Islander population. He will be truly missed.



Taken from official White House website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SITE VISIT AND PUBLIC MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO & SAN JOSE

In October, the Commission will hold a site visit and public meeting in the San Jose & San Francisco area. The public meeting will provide Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with the opportunity to listen in on the Commission's deliberations of their draft Report to the President and to provide comments and feedback.



THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMISSION

Ms. Betty Wu, Chair
 Mr. William P. Afeaki
 Ms. Nina Nguyen Collier
 Dr. Akshay Desai
 Mrs. Vellie Dietrich-Hall
 Mr. William Kil
 Mr. John C. Kim
 Mr. Jimmy Lee
 Mr. Joseph Melookaran
 Mr. Derrick H. Nguyen
 Mr. Rudy Pamintuan
 Mrs. Martha Cruz Ruth
 Mr. Jeffrey B. Sakaguchi
 Mr. Kenneth Wong

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About the President's Advisory Commission & Staff

Ms. Betty B. Wu, of New York, New York, is the Chair of the Commission. Ms. Wu is an Executive with Bloomberg LP, a global news and information company that includes television, radio, publishing and internet operations worldwide. Prior to this, she served as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Employment (DOE) where she received acclaim for her leadership in redefining the scope of DOE as an economic development agency. Ms. Wu received a Master's of Public Administration from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Mr. William P. Afeaki, of Salt Lake City, Utah, was appointed by the Governor of Utah eight years ago to serve as the Director of the Utah State Office of Pacific Islander Affairs, which is housed in the Utah Department of Community and Economic Development. He also served for three years on the Racial Ethnic Advisory Council for the Census Bureau at the US Department of Commerce, the last as Vice-Chairman of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Committee. Previously, Mr. Afeaki was a Member of Parliament in the Legislative Assembly of the Kingdom of Tonga.

Ms. Nina Nguyen Collier, of Issaquah, Washington, is a founding partner of Washington Advocates, government affairs, strategic planning, and communications consulting firm located in Washington State and Washington, DC. Prior to founding Washington Advocates, Nina worked for Senator Slade Gorton as the lead Legislative Assistant in the areas of federal budget, tax, general government, appropriations, and Indian Affairs. Nina and her family escaped to the United States from Vietnam in 1975 and settled in Washington State. She has a Masters Degree in International Affairs from George Washington University and a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies from the University of Washington.

Dr. Akshay Desai, of St. Petersburg, Florida, is a leading private practice physician and founder of American Family and Geriatric Care in St. Petersburg Florida, as well as the CEO and President of Universal Health Care, a managed care organization. Dr. Desai currently holds several leadership positions including Elected Chairman, of the Council for Education Policy and Research Improvement. Previously, Dr. Desai has served as Chief of Staff and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Northside Hospital and Heart Institute, St. Petersburg General Hospital, and on numerous committees of various Hospitals and Health plans

throughout the Tampa Bay area. Dr. Desai received his medical degree from Government Medical College in Surat, India and his Masters Degree in Administrative Medicine from the George Washington University.

Mrs. Vellie Dietrich-Hall of Springfield, Virginia, is the Chief Executive Officer and President of HPS Enterprises Inc., a management consulting service company dedicated to filling in the "expert vacuum" within the Department of Defense (DoD) arena with the highest technical capabilities among former federal and military personnel. Mrs. Hall was honored as keynote speaker at U.S. military bases during the 2001 Asian American Heritage Celebration because she is one of the very few female Filipino Asian -Americans within DoD that succeeded in penetrating the male-dominated workforce. Mrs. Hall is the only Asian American Board of Trustee and Chairman of the Family Advisory Council at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, a member of the Board of Directors of Horizons Theater (where she was the first Asian and only Filipino member), a member of the Board of Directors of QDB Ink-a Filipino American Theater, and a District Officer of Toastmasters International. She is also the publisher of the Filipino HERALD of Virginia. Mrs. Hall received a Liberal Arts Degree from the University of the Philippines. She also received her Acquisition Career and Program Management accreditation from the Department of Defense Systems Management College.

Mr. William Kil, of Los Angeles, California, is a private practice attorney in Los Angeles California specializing in corporate, real estate, business, and immigration law. He is also the president of EOSolve, LLC, which provides online workplace training in a variety of areas to management and employees of companies in English, Spanish, Korean and Chinese. Mr. Kil is an active member of the community serving in numerous organizations, including Member and former Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the Korean-American Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles; former Commissioner of the Productivity Commission of the City of Los Angeles and former member of the Joint Venture Advisory Board of the State of California. Mr. Kil received his Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado School of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Pomona College. He is a member of both the California and Colorado State Bars.

Mr. John C. Kim, of Los Angeles, California is Senior Director of Product Marketing with Yahoo! Inc. In his current role, Mr. Kim is responsible for understanding customer needs to define product, pricing, positioning and programs to capture growth, leadership and

advertising industry share. Previously, Mr. Kim worked as a general management consultant with Accenture, a global management consulting and technology service's company. Prior to that, he held various marketing and product positions with Bank of America and Household International, Inc. Mr. Kim received a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Chicago, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Mr. Jimmy Lee, of Chicago, Illinois, is the Executive Director of the Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, an organization dedicated to improving and expanding business opportunities and to educate others on the history, culture, and customs of the Chinese American community. Mr. Lee previously served as the Assistant to the Governor for Asian American Affairs. Mr. Lee currently serves on a number of community organizations including the Advisory Council to Dupage County President Bob Schillerstrom and the Asian American Advisory Council to Treasurer Judy Barr Topinka. Mr. Lee received a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Mr. Joseph Melookaran, of Overland Park, Kansas, is a Certified Public Accountant and President of JMA Chartered, an accounting and information technology firm headquartered in Kansas. Mr. Melookaran began his career in Bombay, India with Coopers and Lybrand International before immigrating to the United States in 1983 where he established his accounting firm. Mr. Melookaran holds several leadership positions in several community organizations including Chairman of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City and First Vice President of the International Relations Council. Mr. Melookaran's firm has received numerous awards including the "2004 Top Ten Small Business" from the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the "2003 Professional Service Firm of the Year" from the City of Kansas City, Missouri Small Business Division, "Supplier of the Year 2004" from the Minority Supplier Council of Kansas City, and the "Top 25 Minority Owned Business" and "Top 25 Technology Firm" from the Kansas City Business Journal. He is also the Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary International Foundation. Mr. Melookaran received a Bachelor of Arts in

Business from Kerala University, India.

Mr. Derrick H. Nguyen, of Fountain Valley, California, is a private practice attorney in Orange County, California, specializing in business law and civil litigation. Mr. Nguyen also acts as General Counsel for Mac Beam, Inc., an international group specializing in the research, development and marketing of high-tech medical equipments. He is a board member of many non-profit organizations, such as Hung Vuong Heritage Foundation, Vietnamese Traditional Arts Development Organization, and Yellow Cross. He serves as a volunteer lawyer for the Asian Pacific American Legal Center and a legal advisor to many community associations, such as the Vietnamese Rangers Association and Overseas Vietnamese Artists Mutual Association. Mr. Nguyen received his Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Mr. Rudy Pamintuan, of Chicago, Illinois, is President of Sherman Consulting, Inc, a media strategy and public policy consulting firm. Mr. Pamintuan has been a staple in Chicago's philanthropic and non-profit community -- an active volunteer and member of various charities and civic organizations throughout the Chicago-land area including the Y-Me Organization, Misericordia, Maryville and the Executive's Club of Chicago. Mr. Pamintuan is a board member of the Remy Bumpo Theater Company, the Chicago chapter of U.S. Lacrosse and serves on the Asian American Advisory Council to Illinois Treasurer Judy Barr Topinka. He attended Loyola University.

Mrs. Martha Cruz Ruth, of Agana Heights, Guam, is a native Chamorro and has lived in the Western Pacific island territory her entire life. She is currently a consultant specializing in media affairs and marketing in the travel industry. She was business editor of a Gannett-owned daily newspaper and also editor of its monthly supplement, Territorial Progress, which devoted coverage to business and economic development throughout Micronesia. Mrs. Ruth entered politics in 1987 when she was elected a senator in at-large elections to Guam's legislature. She served three consecutive terms. The Micronesia Society of Professional Journalists presented her with its "Sunshine Award" for

her efforts promoting open government. Other positions she has held are Member of the Board of Directors of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the KPRG Guam public radio board of Trustees, and the Guam Public Museum and Library Board of Trustees. Ms. Ruth attended the University of Guam.

Mr. Jeffrey B. Sakaguchi, of Manhattan Beach, California, is the Vice President and General Manager of Retail Solutions for Evolution Robotics, Inc., an early-stage robotics software company. Prior to that, he was a Partner with Accenture, a leading global management and information technology consulting firm. His expertise includes business and organization strategy, operations, innovation, and mergers and acquisitions. At Accenture, he also was a member of the US Diversity Council, was a Partner representative to the Asian American Networking Group, and served as a "Minority Mentor Partner." Mr. Sakaguchi received a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School, and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Kenneth Wong, of Holland, Pennsylvania, is the President of CIG Asia, Ltd, a national property and casualty brokerage firm in Philadelphia and Vice President of Combined Insurance Group. Mr. Wong is also an active community leader in the greater Philadelphia area. He sits on the Board of Directors of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Wong is the Founder and Co-Chair of the Asian Business Alliance of the Delaware Valley and President of the Philadelphia Dragon Boat Association. He was recently appointed treasurer of the Multicultural Affairs Congress-Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau. Mr. Wong also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Suns, the Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, the Philadelphia After School All Stars, the Pan Asian Leadership Caucus, the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians, and Woodrock Inc. Mr. Wong received both a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from the Pennsylvania State University.

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Eddy Robles Badrina is the Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. In this capacity, he is charged with coordinating all federal activities under the Executive Order entitled “Increasing Economic Opportunity And Business Participation Of Asian Americans And Pacific Islanders.” Mr. Badrina is also responsible for working with the White House and the President’s Advisory Commission on AAPIs to advise the President on the needs and concerns of this population. The son of Filipino immigrants, Mr. Badrina was born and raised in Houston, Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University, earning his B.S. in psychology, and was a member of the Corps of Cadets and the Aggie Band. Pursuing his interests in government and international affairs, he went on to receive his Master’s Degree in Public Service and Administration from the George Bush School of Government, and also served as a Bush School Fellow in the Capitol Hill office of Rep. Kevin Brady. Mr. Badrina is married to Rachel Hammond Badrina, and they have one daughter.

Erik Wang serves as the Deputy Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. In this capacity, he develops policies to improve the quality of life for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and increase Asian American and Pacific Islander participation in the Federal Government and the private sector. He also serves as counsel to the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Prior to that, Mr. Wang worked at the Republican National Finance Committee in the Bush Administration developing and implementing various fundraising programs and minority outreach programs. Mr. Wang is an active member of the community and serves as a board member for several non-profit organizations in the Washington, DC area.